

I urge that the cross-ownership rule be allowed to stand. Anyone taking an honest look at the state of American journalism can see that the concentration of media ownership has already resulted in a narrowing of the viewpoints presented and the issues discussed by the largest newspapers and television news programs. For proof, look no further than the fact that the FCC's review of this rule has received virtually no attention by the news divisions of the companies affected by it.

The rule change would go in the wrong direction entirely. It is said, half-jokingly, that freedom of the press is possessed by he who owns a printing press. Given the reality this statement reflects, we need not fewer owners, but more.

The notion that an unregulated marketplace always improves the public good comes not from economic theory, but from ideology - an ideology no less dangerous than Communism. The FCC is bound to safeguard the public good - not just that of a few huge corporations and their shareholders.